



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

October 1, 2004

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

WASHINGTON D.C. UPDATE

This week, Congress adopted a number of short-term extensions of appropriations and program authorizations to maintain Federal operations and programs with the start of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005, which began on October 1, 2004. Congress will recess on October 8th, and will not return until after the November elections to complete action on a host of major unfinished legislation.

Federal Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations

The Defense Appropriations bill is the only FFY 2005 appropriations bill which has been enacted. On September 29, 2004, Congress adopted a continuing resolution (H.J. Res. 107) to fund all other Federal operations and programs through November 20, 2004. Congress is attempting to complete conference committee action on the FFY 2005 Homeland Security (H.R. 4567), Military Construction (H.R. 4837), Foreign Operations (H.R. 4818), and District of Columbia (H.R. 4850) bills before it recesses next week. As in recent years, all remaining appropriations bills are likely to be combined into a single omnibus appropriations bill which would be considered in November.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Reauthorization

Yesterday, Congress adopted H.R. 5149, which funds TANF at current levels through March 31, 2005. Since the original authorization for TANF expired two years ago, Congress has enacted numerous short-term extensions of TANF. The House has been able to pass a multi-year TANF reauthorization bill (H.R. 4), but the Senate has not been able to pass its version on the bill.

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) Reauthorization

The House and Senate have adopted an eight-month extension (H.R. 5183) of TEA-21 surface transportation programs, which now will be funded through May 31, 2005. Under this extension, new earmarked projects were not funded, including those requested by the County. The TEA-21 reauthorization bill (H.R. 3550) continues to be stalled in a House/Senate conference committee due to disagreements over the overall level of funding and the formula for allocating funds among the states.

Homeland Security Grant Funding

Both houses of Congress are considering legislation to implement portions of the 9-11 Commission recommendations relating to intelligence and homeland security activities. The House version (H.R. 10) contains provisions similar to H.R. 3266 (Cox, R-CA), which would change the method for allocating State Homeland Security Grant, Urban Area Security Initiative, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and Citizen Corps funds. Under the bill, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) would distribute funds to states or regions based on assessments of terrorist threats and critical infrastructure. Each state would continue to be assured of a minimum level of funding, but the minimum level would be lowered to 0.25% of total funding, except that states with a 'significant' international border would receive at least 0.45%.

These changes would significantly increase California's and the County's share of total funding. Under the current allocation formula, DHS first allocates 0.75% of total funding to each state and then allocates remaining funds on a per capita basis, which results in the least populous state (Wyoming) receiving 0.86% of total funding. California should benefit from not only the far lower small state minimum, but also from the allocation of funds based on terrorist threats and critical infrastructure rather than population. H.R. 10 has been reported by multiple House committees which share jurisdiction, and will be considered on the House floor next week.

The Senate is considering its version (S. 2845) on the floor. That measure is more narrowly crafted than its House counterpart and currently does not contain any homeland security grant provisions. Given the perceived political pressure to enact some of the 9-11 Commission's recommendations, House and Senate leadership would like to finalize a bill before the October 8 election recess.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:MT:hg

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist